AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended)   A fibre for thermal bonding comprising semicrystalline random copolymers of propylene, 1-hexene and optionally another α-olefin, the amount of 1-hexene being from 0.75 to less 1.52 mol% with respect to the total weight of the copolymer, the copolymers possessing a value of melt flow rate (MFR) ranging from 4 to 35 g /10 min and a molecular weight distribution, in terms of the ratio between weight average molecular weight and numeric average molecular weight ($\overline{M_w}/\overline{M_n}$), ranging from 4 to 12, wherein the semicrystalline random copolymers are prepared by polymerization in the presence of Ziegler-Natta catalysts.

2. (original)   The fibre of claim 1 wherein the copolymer has a molecular weight distribution from 5 to 9.

3. (original)   The fibre of claim 1 wherein the copolymer has a solubility in xylene at room temperature below 10 wt%.

4. (previously presented)   The fibre of claim 1 further comprising up to 80% by weight of polyolefin (B) selected from polymers or copolymers, and their mixtures, of $CH_2=CHR$ olefins where R is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_8 alkyl radical.

5. (currently amended)   Non-woven fabric obtained from a fibre comprising semicrystalline random copolymers of propylene, 1-hexene and optionally another α-olefin, the amount of 1-hexene being from 0.75 to less 1.52 mol% with respect to the total weight of the copolymer, the copolymers possessing a value of melt flow rate (MFR) ranging from 4 to 35 g/10 min and a molecular weight distribution, in terms of the ratio between weight average molecular weight and numeric average molecular weight ($\overline{M_w}/\overline{M_n}$), ranging from 4 to 12, wherein the semicrystalline random copolymers are prepared by polymerization in the presence of Ziegler-Natta catalysts.

6. (new)   The fibre of claim 1 wherein the copolymer has a molecular weight distribution ranging from greater than 5 to 12.

7. (new)   The fibre of claim 1 wherein the copolymer has a molecular weight distribution ranging from 6 to 12.

8. (new)   The fibre of claim 1 comprising semicrystalline random copolymers of propylene, 1-

hexene and an α-olefin present in amounts ranging from 0.5 to 4.5% by weight with resepect to the total copolymer selected from ethylene and α-olefins of formula $CH_2=CHR$, wherein R is a C_2-C_8 linear or branched alkyl radical.

9. (new) The fibre of claim 1 wherein the semicrystalline random copolymers have a melting point of above 140° C.

10. (new) The fibre of claim 4, wherein polyolefin (B) is selected from:

1) copolymers of ethylene selected from HDPE, LDPE, or LLDPE,

2) crystalline copolymers of propylene with ethylene and/or C_4-C_{10} α-olefins selected from 1-butene, 1-hexene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, or 1-octene, wherein the total comonomer content ranges from 0.05% to 20% by weight with respect to the weight of the copolymer,

3) elastomeric copolymers of ethylene with propylene and/or a C_4-C_{10} α-olefin, optionally containing minor quantities of a diene, such as butadiene, 1,4-hexadiene, 1,5-hexadiene, ethylidene-1-norbornene,

4) heterophasic copolymers comprising (I) a propylene homopolymer and/or one of the copolymers of item 2), and an elastomeric fraction (II) comprising one or more of the copolymers of item 3), containing the elastomeric fraction (II) in quantities from 5% to 80% by weight, or

5) 1-butene homopolymers or copolymers with ethylene and/or other α-olefins.

3